

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

MADELINE RESTO RODRIGUEZ,  
Plaintiff,

v.

Civil No. 97-2919 (HL)

ASOCIACION DE CONDOMINIOS  
DEL CONDOMINIO PLAYA  
ESMERELDA, et al,  
Defendants.

**ORDER**

The pretrial and settlement conference for this case is scheduled for **October 12, 1999**, at 2:00 p.m. The scheduling order heretofore entered in this case, shall remain in full force and effect.

In order to conduct a meaningful settlement conference, counsel for the parties are to appear fully prepared and with full authority to discuss and reach settlement, and shall comply with the following procedure:

1. The parties are **ordered** to have their principals available by phone during the settlement conference.
2. Plaintiffs' counsel shall serve counsel for the defendants with a written demand on or before **September 15, 1999**, setting forth a settlement figure and the justification therefor in detail.
3. Counsel for the defendants shall serve counsel for the plaintiffs on or before **October 4, 1999**, a written reply accepting, rejecting, or submitting a counter-proposal to

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plaintiffs' settlement demand and the justification therefor. Proposed settlement figures are not to be filed with the Court.

4. Counsel are instructed to meet with each other prior to the scheduled settlement conference in a good faith effort to negotiate and achieve, if possible, settlement.

5. The parties shall meet prior to the conference to prepare a proposed **Pretrial Order**. The proposed Pretrial Order shall be filed two days prior to the pretrial and settlement conference. The Order shall contain each party's (1) factual version; (2) legal theory; (3) witness list accompanied by a short statement of each witness' intended testimony; (4) expert list; and (5) evidence list. In addition, the proposed order shall also include a list of stipulated uncontested facts.

The Court advises counsel that any unjustified noncompliance with the provisions of this Order, such as being substantially unprepared for counsel's meeting or for the subsequent settlement conference, or failure to participate in good faith in settlement negotiations, shall constitute good cause for the imposition of sanctions under F.R.Civ.P. 16(f).

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

San Juan, Puerto Rico, September 10<sup>+</sup>, 1999.

HECTOR M. LAFFITE  
Chief U.S. District Judge